

Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)

From: Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE)
Sent: Tuesday, November 01, 2016 3:40 PM
To: Sanchez, Rodzandra (COE)
Subject: Michael Pizzi, former Town Attorney, Town of Medley (Lobbying) INQ 16-247

INQ 16-247 Pizzi

From: Centorino, Joseph (COE)
Sent: Tuesday, November 01, 2016 3:11 PM
To: Turay, Radia (COE) <Radia.Turay@miamidade.gov>; Perez, Martha D. (COE) <perezmd@miamidade.gov>; Diaz-Greco, Gilma M. (COE) <Gilma.Diaz-Greco@miamidade.gov>
Subject: INQ 16-247 Michael Pizzi, former Town Attorney, Town of Medley (Lobbying)

Michael Pizzi, Esq., former Town Attorney for the Town of Medley, and also the current Mayor of the City of Miami Lakes, has a private law client who applied for and was denied an occupational license in the Town of Medley. Mr. Pizzi left his position in Medley about three and one half years ago. Since that time he registered as a Lobbyist in Medley, following the expiration of the two-year period during which he was prohibited from lobbying the Town under the County Code of Ethics. His registration as a lobbyist in Medley has now lapsed. Mr. Pizzi inquired about whether it would be appropriate for him to contact the Director of Planning at the Town to ask for the reason that Mr. Pizzi's client was denied an occupational license, without re-registering as a lobbyist.

I advised Mr. Pizzi that he could do so as long as he was careful to limit the discussion to finding out the reason for the denial. Section 2-11.1(s) of the Ethics Code defines lobbying as seeking "to encourage the passage, defeat, or modifications" of a decision by municipal personnel that will ultimately be heard to reviewed by a City board or commission. If the only thing that is done is to make an inquiry for information and not to influence any such decision, then it would not be necessary to register as a lobbyist. Whether it would be appropriate to go further and attempt to change the decision would depend on whether the decision to grant or deny an occupational license in the Town of Medley was reviewable by a board or commission in the Town. At this point Mr. Pizzi agreed to limit the discussion to finding out the reason for the denial.

Joseph M. Centorino

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